(d) The proposal of Government of Tripura could not be accorded sanction for want of any suitable scheme under the Ministry. However, a new scheme "Integrated Protection of Forests" which *inter-alia* would provide for the creation of infrastructure for the protection of forests has been proposed in Ninth Five Year Plan, to the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Welfare of Handicapped Persons

1652. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the orders issued by the Government during the period of one year regarding plans for the welfare of the handicapped persons in Uttar Pradesh State;

(b) the assistance sought from the Central Government for these plans; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government for providing the same ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The required information has been called for from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Development of Vananchal

1653. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored projects being implemented in Bihar to convert the plateau of Vananchal into a cultivable land;

(b) the details of the projects launched by the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of Chhota Nagpur Santhal Pargana Plateau and its present position;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up a Central project for the plantation of fructiferous trees in this plateau;

(d) whether the Government have conducted a survey for developing forests, horticulture and cultivation of vegetables in this area and propose to launch a special scheme in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The world Bank Aided "Bihar Plateau Development Project" is being implemented in ten Districts of the Plateau region of Bihar from 16th March, 1993. The project has a span of five years and aims at creation of basic infrastructure for development of agriculture, drinking water, minor irrigation, rural roads etc. The revised cost of the project is Rs. 444 crores.

Besides a number of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been taken up by the Government of India to assist the State Government in the development of agriculture. This include the schemes for National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers, Reclamation of Alkali lands with EEC assistance, which aim at improvement of land capability.

(c) Agro-climatic conditions in Vananchal are not suitable for cashew production. Regarding cultivation of juicy fruits, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of fruits is being implemented in all States including Bihar. Under the scheme assistance is provided for area expansion, improving productivity, establishment of nurseries and Tissue Culture Units, training of farmers and demonstration etc. Further distribution of this assistance for different regions of the State is decided by the State Authorities.

(d) and (e) A techno-economic feasibility report on Integrated Horticulture Development Programme in Bihar was prepared by M/s Agro-Horticulture Services, New Delhi in 1994. The report was sponsored by the National Horticulture Board. The report suggested the potential and programmes for horticulture crops in all regions of Bihar including Chhotanagpur area. Assistance is provided to the Government of Bihar through various schemes in horticulture for planting materials, area expansion, transfer of technology, increasing production and productivity and post harvest management infrastructure.

The Government of India is also contemplating to start cultivation of Soyabean crop in the Chhotanagpur area of Bihar.

Agricultural Projects

1654. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government has recently submitted any proposal for the central assistance for various Agricultural Projects in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Government of Kerala has submitted a number of agricultural projects